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March 12, 2015

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: Sachi A. Hamai 
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
HILDA L. SOLIS
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

SHEILA KUEHL
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Executive Summary

This memorandum contains reports on the following:

- **Pursuit of County Position to Support AB 971 (Chang).** This measure would require the State to reimburse counties for expenses necessarily incurred for certain special elections, as specified. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to support proposals to provide County reimbursement for the costs incurred in conducting special elections to fill vacancies in State and Federal offices, **the Sacramento advocates will support AB 971.**
- **Pursuit of County Position to Support AJR 11 (Burke and Atkins).** This measure would request that the President and the Congress of the United States recognize the unique military value of California's defense installations and the disproportionate sacrifices California has endured in previous base realignment and closure (BRAC) rounds. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to oppose proposals which would result in the downsizing or closure of the Los Angeles Air Force Base and other military installations in California, **the Sacramento advocates will support AJR 11.**

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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- **Status of County-Advocacy Legislation**

- **County-supported AB 171 (Irwin)** - related to funding the activities of County Veterans Service Officers, passed the Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee on March 10, 2015, and now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

- **Senate Transportation and Housing Committee.** On March 13, 2015, the committee will convene, at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Authority, to conduct an informational hearing on transportation funding.

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

AB 971 (Chang), which was introduced on February 26, 2015, would require the State to reimburse counties for expenses authorized and necessarily incurred on or after January 1, 2015 for elections proclaimed by the Governor to fill a vacancy in the office of Senator or Member of the Assembly, or to fill a vacancy in the office of United States Senator or Member of the United States House of Representatives.

Existing law provides that expenses authorized and necessarily incurred to prepare for and to conduct elections are to be paid from the county treasuries, except as specified. AB 971 seeks to address the unnecessary burden that unreimbursed special elections have had on California's 58 counties and would require the State to reimburse counties for necessary expenses for certain special elections. The bill would cover elections proclaimed by the Governor to fill a vacancy in the offices of State Senate, State Assembly, United States Senate, or United States House of Representatives.

The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) indicates that the County conducts frequent special vacancy elections at a significant cost to the County. In March 2015, the RR/CC will incur an estimated \$1.4 million in unreimbursed costs to conduct the 21st State Senate District special election. In 2014, the RR/CC reports that special elections cost the County an estimated \$2.3 million for which no reimbursement could be sought. The County had \$6.2 million in unreimbursed costs associated with six special vacancy elections in 2013. From 2007 through 2012, the County ran eleven special elections at a total unreimbursed cost of approximately \$18 million. AB 971 would allow the County to seek reimbursement from the State for future special election costs.

This office and the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk support AB 971. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to support proposals to provide County reimbursement for the costs incurred in conducting special elections to fill vacancies in State and Federal offices, **the Sacramento advocates will support AB 971.**

Currently, there is no registered support or opposition to AB 971. This measure bill is pending referral to a policy committee for its first hearing.

AJR 11 (Burke and Atkins), which was introduced on March 4, 2015, would request that the President and the Congress of the United States recognize the unique military value of California's defense installations and the disproportionate sacrifices California has endured in previous Federal base realignment and closure (BRAC) rounds.

AJR 11 makes various legislative findings regarding the military value of California's defense installations and the sacrifices California has endured in previous BRAC rounds. This measure requests that the President and the Congress of the United States consider the following before closing or realigning California's military installations: 1) that California has geography favorable to military training; 2) that the State is strategically located; 3) the economic impact of military installations on nearby communities; 4) the established relationships between California's private industry and military installation; 5) the vast intellectual capital in California that has been developed since World War II; and 6) the State's ability to recruit and train highly-skilled and educated personnel.

The President's 2016 Budget proposes a new round of military base closures in 2017 through the BRAC process. The Board of Supervisors has expressed its strong support for retaining the Los Angeles Air Force Base and the Space and Missile Systems Center due to their critical importance to the region's economy and the nation's defense. This office supports AJR 11. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to oppose proposals which would result in the downsizing or closure of the Los Angeles Air Force Base and other military installations in California, **the Sacramento advocates will support AJR 11.**

This measure is currently on the Assembly Floor.

Status of County-Advocacy Legislation

County-supported AB 171 (Irwin), which as introduced on January 22, 2015, would continuously appropriate \$5.6 million from the State General Fund to fund the activities of County Veterans Service Officers, passed the Assembly Veterans

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Affairs Committee by a vote of 9 to 0 on March 10, 2015. This measure now proceeds to Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Senate Transportation and Housing Committee Informational Hearing

On March 13, 2015, the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee will convene an informational hearing on transportation funding. The hearing will be held in the Board Room of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Patrick DeChellis, Deputy Director for Transportation at the Department of Public Works, will attend this informational hearing to share information on the County's transportation infrastructure needs.

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:JJ:MR
VE:IGEA:ma

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 721
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
Buddy Program Participants